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England, and is designed to supplement that movement. It aims to reach the general reader, living apart from the centres of the movement, and to furnish him with the same kind of information as is given in lectures.

In the present Manual (following the general plan of the series) details are avoided, except as they show the working out of laws and principles. The aim being to educate rather than to inform, the author has attempted to guide the student or reader

"through the consecutive evolution of French literary history, from the beginning of the nation to a time immediately preceding our own."

Living authors are excluded from the survey. The author wishes to give a correct general view, so that his reader may form an idea of the literature of France as a whole, with the reciprocal relations of its various schools and stages of development.

Chronological division and treatment is abandoned, and in its stead the object has been to treat the subject logically by dividing it into five Ages: The Age of Infancy, The Age of Adolescence (Sixteenth Century), The Age of Glory, The Age of Reason and The Age of Nature. The last two chapters of the book discuss the sources of French prose fiction and poetry of the present time. An Introduction of eight pages is devoted to a somewhat technical discussion of the scope and application of literature.

The volume, thus put together, seems bright and original, and forms very interesting reading, especially for the reader who may be presumed to have already some general knowledge of the subject. The author has an entertaining style and shows a thorough familiarity with his theme. His own interesting narrative is appropriately set off by numerous short quotations from the literature, among which, along side of oft-repeated lines like the 'Mignonne! allons voir si la rose,' appear many illustrative passages (especially in prose) which are more novel and not less opportune. In his estimation of past writers, Mr. Keene says he has refrained from obtruding his own opinions. This is perhaps rather difficult to do in any case. In the present one an air of entire impersonality does not appear to be

preserved throughout. Certainly the author's admiration for Racine is most generous. About fifteen pages are devoted to him in a volume of some two hundred. A few other writers of perhaps equal eminence seem to suffer in comparison. An enthusiastic admirer of Molière would wish to see a fuller treatment of his works; about one page is allotted to him. Some space being used to show how far Victor Hugo in his drama has proved himself the descendant of the past, Racine naturally assumes a prominent position; still, for the author, "Racine is the only one who, in his best work, is quite *perfect*." Among the precursors of the Romantic movement Chateaubriand is given a deservedly prominent place; Mme. de Staël's influence seems understated. A very just and well-worded characterization of the realistic novelists is given in the concluding pages of the volume.

There is little occasion in such a work for allusion to etymologies, but on p. 13, *oui* is referred to *hoc illud*. On the same page a misprint occurs in *Roman du Rou*, and, a quotation from the first part of this epic being given, the lines are stated to be the earliest attempt at the Alexandrine metre.

As a manual for the work of University Extension, the book may appear (at least if one judge it from the standpoint of the movement in America) to lack symmetry, and to be a trifle too erudite for the purpose. While being somewhat unequal in treatment, it impresses one as hardly categorical enough for the uninitiated.

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SPANISH DIALECT.

Tesoro de voces y Provincialismos Hispano-Americanos. Publicado por CARLOS LENTZNER. Tomo i; Parte primera. La Region del Rio de la Plata. Halle a. S.—Leipzig: Eberhardt Karras, Editor. 1892. xvii, 63 pp. (A-C.). Preis, 3 Mark.

WHILE the French and Italian dialects have in late years received a great deal of attention from scholars, and not a year passes without additions to the stock of knowledge concerning them, the Spanish dialects seem to have

had very little attraction for the student of linguistic phenomena. Even the older dialects of Spanish,—to except only that of Leon, on which we have the work of Gessner and Morel-Fatio's "Recherches sur le texte et les sources du libro de Alexandre," in *Romania* iv (1875),—have been greatly neglected, while the present spoken dialects have fared little better. Schuchardt was one of the first to treat scientifically any of the living dialects of Spain, that of Andalusia, in his very interesting "Cantes Flamencos," in the '*Zeitschrift für Rom. Phil.*,' vol. v. (1881) p. 249. This, with the work of Munthe, on the Asturian dialect, is about all that has appeared outside of the Spanish peninsula. Schuchardt was likewise the first scholar to call attention to the changes, especially in the vocabulary, that Spanish has undergone in the colonies. The earliest extensive scientific work on any of the Spanish dialects of South America, where, according to Prof. Baist (Gröbers 'Grundriss'), Spanish is spoken by about twenty million people, is Cuervo's 'Apuntaciones críticas sobre el language bogotano. Segunda edicion.' Bogotá. 1876.¹ The article by Maspero, "Sur quelques singularités phonétiques de l'espagnol parlé dans la campagne de Buenos-Ayres et de Montivideo." *Mem. de la Soc. de Linguistique*, vol. ii, pp. 51-65, is translated in the work before us, 'enmendado y seguido de apuntaciones críticas,' and prefixed as an introduction to the 'Vocabulario Rioplatense.' The object and scope of the work are given in the preface:

"Der spanisch-amerikanische Sprachschatz, von welchem hier die erste Lieferung vorliegt, ist das Unternehmen eines deutschen Philologen, der verschiedene Welttheile bereist und u. a. die lebende Sprache der heutigen Bewohner des La Plata-Gebietes während eines siebenjährigen Aufenthaltes in Argentinien und Uruguay studiert hat. . . . [Der Herausgeber] trägt Gedrucktes und Handschriftliches von weither zusammen, verwerthet die Resultate fremder und eigener Forschung, und schöpft direkt aus lebendigen Quellen. Der "Tesoro" will Künftigen Geschlechtern die Abfassung eines vergleichenden Wörterbuchs der amerikanisch-spanischen Sprache

¹ The first edition appeared in 1872, and a fourth edition, 'notablemente aumentada,' appeared in 1885. This I have not seen.

erleichtern. Auch der künftige Verfasser eines altspanischen Wörterbuchs wird Brauchbares in diesem Werke finden."

This first *Lieferung* of the 'Vocabulario Rioplatense,' extends from *Abati=malz*, to *Cuzco=perro pequeño ladrador*, (de la interj. *cuz! cuz!*): it is beautifully printed, and an examination of as much of it as is before us, shows that the last sentence we have quoted from the preface is likely to be verified, and the work prove very useful in its particular field.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

CERTAIN MILTONIC CONCEPTIONS.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—The volumes of Milton edited by A. W. Verity for the Pitt Press (Macmillan & Co.) are, it seems to me, far above the usual range of annotated classics. I have been much interested in his last volume ('Par. Lost.' v, vi) wherein he presents matters of scholarly interest in his Introduction ("History of Paradise Lost: Milton's Blank Verse") and in his appendix ("The Cosmology of Paradise Lost: The Character of Milton's Satan"). Indeed I believe that even students who know their Milton well, will find some new hints here. I beg to offer some observations upon the matters touched on in the appendix.

In his study of Milton's Cosmology, Mr. Verity proceeds in the direction taken by Masson in his edition of Milton, and adds certain interesting details. He then touches upon Milton's conception of the heavenly hierarchy. In his note to Bk. v., l. 587, Mr. Verity mentions the medieval classification of the angels and remarks that Milton accepted the system, and further notes passages in Milton's prose and in 'Paradise Lost,' in which reference to such conception is made.

That Milton was well acquainted with the divisions of the angels as existent in medieval theology and therefore presented by Dante ('Par.' xxviii) cannot be doubted. I think however, that any one considering the matter with all the evidence in view, will come to the